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Rural District of Limehurst



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

THE REPORT

of the Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1952

LIMEHURST RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

1951-52

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Members of the Council:

Parish

Councillor E. COLLINGE, Chairman.....Bardsley

(28th May, 1952)

„ J. J. CRESSWELL, Retiring Chairman...Littlemoss

(28th May, 1952)

„ T. OLLERENSHAW, J.P., Vice-Chairman

(28th May, 1952)

Waterloo

„ L. MILLIN, Retiring Vice-Chairman.....Waterloo

(28th May, 1952)

„ W. ROBERTSON.....Woodhouses

„ W. SLATER.....Alt

„ F. RUFFLEY.....Littlemoss

(from 21st May, 1952)

Officials:

E. H. RATCLIFFE, A.C.A.....Clerk of the Council

B. BOWMAN, M.B., Ch.B.....Medical Officer of Health

S. DAVIES, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.....Sanitary Inspector

H. BRADSHAW.....Surveyor

A. HOWSON, A.R.V.A.....Rating Officer

Public Health Staff:

Medical Officer of Health

Sanitary Inspector

Clerk

ANNUAL REPORT

Council Offices,

200, Oldham Road,

Waterloo, near Ashton-under-Lyne.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS

of the

Limehurst Rural District Council

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the Health of the District for the year 1952. I have pleasure in announcing that the general health remains good.

To the Members of the Council and Officials, I tender my thanks for their assistance and co-operation during the past year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

B. BOWMAN,

Temporary Medical Officer of Health.

PARISH	AREA IN ACRES	No. of Inhabited Houses	Rateable Value £	Product 1d. Rate £
Alt	966.724	266	3,180	11
Bardsley	537.076	465	6,476	25
Littlemoss ...	703.802	584	7,396	33
Waterloo	341.139	1,423	18,448	71
Woodhouses...	529.545	176	2,122	8
Totals...	3,078.286	2,914	37,712	148

Population at 1931 Census (excluding Hartshead) ... 8,151
 Population for mid-1952—estimated 9,045

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTION

Generally, the number of notifiable diseases was again small, with a notable decrease from 207 in 1951 to 104 in 1952; the main decrease is noted in the Measles group.

Total number of Notifiable Diseases recorded
 during the year 104
 (including tuberculosis)

11 cases of scarlet fever were notified; 1 of these was admitted to hospital.

Infectious disease cases admitted to hospital were as follows:

Suspected Meningitis	1
Scarlet Fever	1
Westhulme (Oldham)	Total
	2

Ambulance facilities were provided by the County Borough of Oldham.

No. of premises (houses) disinfected 3

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR, 1952
 Notified cases only included.

Notifiable Diseases	Total cases at all ages	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED YEARS										Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to District.	
		Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over
Smallpox	11	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria, including Membraneous Croup	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Primary Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Influenza Pneumonia	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Polio-Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis-Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	57	9	10	9	7	14	15
Whooping Cough	—	15	—	2	3	6	—
Other Notifiable diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	...	90	2	12	11	9	18	29	2	—	4	—	2

TUBERCULOSIS.
New Cases and Mortality during 1952.

YEARS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1								
1—5								
5—10								
10—15								
15—20	1	2						
20—25		3						
25—35	1			1				
35—45	2	1						
45—55	1					1		
55—65								
65 and over	1	1				1		
	6	7		1		2		
	13		1			2		1

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES
IN THE AREA

1.—Services provided by the Manchester Regional Hospital Board.

(a) GENERAL HOSPITALS

The District Infirmary and the Lake Hospital, Ashton-under-Lyne, are both controlled and administered by the Manchester Regional Hospital Board acting through their Ashton, Hyde and Glossop Hospital Management Committee.

Both hospitals admit medical and surgical cases; the District Infirmary have an out-patient department and the Lake Hospital provide, through their Maternity Department, maternity beds and ante-natal clinic.

(b) INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The Hyde Isolation Hospital and Westhulme (Oldham) Isolation Hospital continue to take the majority of Limehurst cases which require to be isolated.

Smallpox : The Regional Board would indicate which of their Smallpox Hospitals would be used in the event of a case occurring.

(c) TUBERCULOSIS SERVICES

The T.B. Dispensary, Lees Street, Ashton-under-Lyne, is now administered by the Regional Hospital Board, though certain aspects of this work, more particularly the domiciliary visiting of cases and contacts, come within the domain of the Local Health Authority's Medical Officers (the Divisional Medical Officers for Health, Divisions Nos. 14 and 17).

The times for attendance at the dispensary are as follows :

Tuesdays	2.0 to 4.0 p.m.
Fridays	10.0 to 12.0 noon.

2.—Services provided by the Local Health Authority.

Lancashire County Council are the Local Health Authority for Limehurst area, and they have set up a Divisional Scheme of Administration covering the whole of the County of Lancashire.

The Rural District is zoned into the Health Divisions as follows :

Parish of Woodhouses (only) Health Division No. 14
Offices: "Tylon," Middleton Road, Chadderton.
'Phone: MAIN (Oldham) 6251/2.

Parishes of Alt, Bardsley, Littlemoss and Waterloo
Health Division No. 17

Offices: Divisional Health Offices, St. Michael's Square,
Ashton-under-Lyne. 'Phone: ASHton 2847/8.

The services which are provided by Lancashire County Council with effect from July 5th, 1948, are as follows :

1. Maternity and Child Welfare.
2. School Medical Service.

3. Midwifery.
4. Health Visiting.
5. Home Nursing.
6. Vaccination and Immunisation.
7. Ambulance Service.
8. Prevention of Illness, Care and After-care.
9. Domestic Help.
10. Mental Health.
11. Health Education and Propaganda.

The above services are administered by the Lancashire County Council acting through their Divisional Health Committees Nos. 14 and 17.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948—SECTION 47

No. of applications made during the period 1st January, 1952, to 31st December, 1952	Nil
No. of Order made	Nil

SCHOOL CLINIC

There are no School Clinics in the District, but facilities are available for school children at the undermentioned premises :

Medical Officer's Inspection Clinic, Water Street, Ashton-under-Lyne

Monday and Thursday—10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Minor Ailment Clinic, Water Street, Ashton-under-Lyne

Monday to Friday—9.30 to 10.30 a.m.

Dental Casuals Clinic, Water Street, Ashton-under-Lyne

Monday—2 to 2.30 p.m.

Friday—9.30 to 10.30 a.m.

Special appointments are made for Ophthalmic, Orthopaedic, Ear, Nose and Throat and Artificial Sunlight Clinics.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

Welfare Centres and Clinics are administered by the Lancashire County Council; sessions are held regularly in accordance with the following programme :

Welfare Centre

(including diphtheria immunisation)

Methodist School, Oldham Road, Waterloo, Ashton-under-Lyne

Every Tuesday at 2 p.m.

Ante-Natal Clinics

Envile House, Scotland Street, Ashton-under-Lyne
Alternate Fridays—2 to 4.30 p.m.

Richmond House, Richmond Street, Ashton-under-Lyne
Alternate Fridays—2 to 4.30 p.m.

Child Welfare Centres

Envile House, Scotland Street, Ashton-under-Lyne
Tuesday—2 to 4.30 p.m.

Richmond House, Richmond Street, Ashton-under-Lyne
Thursday—2 to 4.30 p.m.

Ormonde Street Welfare, Hurst, Ashton-under-Lyne
Wednesday—2 to 4.30 p.m.

Limehurst mothers who are in employment, particularly those employed in the textile industry, may make application to the Matron for the admission of their children to any of the Day Nurseries in Health Division No. 17.

The Day Nurseries nearest to Limehurst are: Hurst Day Nursery, Kings Road, Ashton-under-Lyne; West End Day Nursery, Manchester Road, Ashton-under-Lyne.

MIDWIVES

The Midwife allocated to the Rural District is Mrs. A. Harrop, S.C.M., S.R.N., residing at 5, Ney Street, Waterloo, Ashton-under-Lyne. Telephone No.: ASH 2033.

WATER SUPPLIES AND SEWERAGE

2,912 houses are supplied by public mains and have a tap inside the house.

2 Parishes (Waterloo and Bardsley, 1,848 houses) are sewered; the parish of Littlemoss is partially sewered by the Borough of Ashton-under-Lyne and the sewers are primarily serving this authority's overspill housing scheme. The Parishes of Alt and Woodhouses are without public sewers.

The number of houses in the Parishes of Alt, Littlemoss and Woodhouses which are not served by a public sewer is 708.

Administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

1. Inspections, for the purposes of provisions as to health, including inspection made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Prosecutions (4)
Factories with mechanical power	37	2	—
Factories (without mechanical power	2	—	—
Other premises under the Act... (including works of building and engineering construction, but not including outworkers' premises) ...	9	—	—
Total	48	2	—

2. Defects Found.

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects			Number of Prosec- utions (5)
	Found (2)	Rem- edied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Want of Cleanliness (S. 1)	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S. 2)	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3) ...	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S. 4)	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6) ...	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7)— insufficient	—	—	—	—
unsuitable or defective	2	2	—	—
not separate for sexes... ...	—	—	—	—
Other offences	—	—	—	—
Not including offences relating to home work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule of the Factories Act, 1937.				
Total	2	2	—	—

Number of Returns in Outworkers' Section—4

Sanitary Inspector's Report

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE LIMEHURST RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the sanitary circumstances of the District for the year 1952.

With regard to foodstuffs consumed in the area, these have not given rise to any difficulties; the standard of milk produced within the District has remained good.

I take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to all Members and Officials of the Council for their help and valuable co-operation.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

S. DAVIES,

Sanitary Inspector.

NOTICES SERVED—NUISANCE AND SANITARY DEFECTS

No. of Informal Notices served during 1952 (concerning 125 houses)	117
No. of same complied with during 1952 (concerning 98 houses)	94
No. of Statutory Notices served	16
No. of Statutory Notices complied with	9
No. of Legal Proceedings authorised	Nil
No. of Legal Proceedings taken	Nil

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION, DRAINAGE, ETC.

During the year the undermentioned work has been carried out:

No. of pail closets converted to fresh water closets	8
No. of waste water closets converted to fresh water closets	10
No. of closet pails provided as renewals	35
No. of dustbins provided by Local Authority	152
No. of premises where existing drains were cleansed or repaired	25
No. of public sewers cleansed	7

The 578 pail closets are remote from the public sewer and the question of conversion will remain in abeyance until such times as sewerage facilities are provided to these parts of the district.

With reference to the 441 waste water closets in the District, it is generally agreed that this type of convenience should be abolished and replaced by fresh water closets.

The closet accommodation for 2,287 houses is on the water carriage system.

The number of dustbins now to be emptied in the whole district is 3,214 as against 171 in 1922.

On the 1st April, 1949, the Council inaugurated a system of maintaining and renewing dustbins as may be necessary for the reception of house refuse throughout the district, the cost thereof to be charged to General Rate Fund.

The following report is a summary of work done by the Surveyor's Department, details of which have been supplied by your Surveyor, Mr. Bradshaw.

Housing

The total number of inhabited houses in the district has increased during the year from 2,850 to 2,914, due to the completion of a further 64 two bedoomed type houses by Ashton Corporation in the Parish of Littlemoss.

Further houses on this estate are nearing completion and during the year plans have been approved for a further 338 houses, 16 flats and 10 shops.

Regarding this Council's building proposals, plans to erect 7 houses in Woodhouses and 16 at Bardsley were approved.

Private Enterprise Building

Licences were issued during the year for the erection of 13 houses by private enterprise.

Building Controls

The number of applications dealt with during the year for erection and alteration of buildings under bye-laws and Town Planning regulations was 79, of which 26 were for the provision of new or improvement of existing dwelling houses.

Private Streets

During the year two further private streets in Bardsley have been made up and adopted by the Highway Authority, making a total of 10 new streets provided since the war.

Sewers and Sewage Disposal

The preparation of a scheme of complete reconstruction for Waterloo Sewage Works was completed during the year. The scheme is to reconstruct the existing deficient works and to extend it to a capacity to deal with the maximum future development from the Waterloo drainage area, including development by Ashton Corporation. The estimated cost of the scheme is £34,500, and at this stage it has been approved in principle by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and the allocation starting date is awaited.

All the premises on Lees New Road in the Parish of Alt, which previously had no satisfactory drainage system have now been connected to the new sewer laid by Oldham Corporation in connection with their Holts Housing Estate.

Refuse Removal

The fortnightly collection of refuse has been continued throughout the year and the number of refuse bins now dealt with is approximately 3,214.

The number of pail closets in the district has been reduced to 578 and these are dealt with by a weekly collection.

The salvage collection, covering waste paper, has been continued and whilst collections have remained at a reasonable level the collection has not been the financial success of previous years due to a slump in the prices of waste paper.

Tabulated Record of Sanitary Accommodation at the end of 1952

PARISH	Water Closets	Waste Water Closets	Pail Closets	Galv'd Bins	Cesspits
Alt	87	22	191	286	10
Bardsley ...	361	188	17	532	—
Littlemoss ...	499	10	135	654	5
Waterloo ...	1275	220	2	1500	—
Woodhouses	65	1	233	242	3
Totals ...	2287	441	578	3214	18

SLAUGHTERHOUSES, MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

No public slaughterhouse is established in the District. There are two private slaughterhouses, situated in the Parish of Waterloo.

In January, 1940, private slaughtering ceased, all slaughtering being subject to Government control from this date. No Government slaughterhouse was established in Limehurst.

The following foodstuffs have been found unfit for human consumption :

- 8½ lb. cod fillets
- 28 lb. cod fish
- 7 lb. hind quarter beef
- 1 bovine head and tongue
- 2 bovine livers
- 29 tins luncheon meat
- 1 tin cooked ham

1 tin pressed meat
29 tins sardines
9 tins salmon
2 bovine heads
2 tins jellied veal
1 tin pilchards
6 tins milk
25 tins peas
11 tins butter beans
6 tins strawberries
6 tins cherries
1 tin pears
1 jar pears
32 tins red plums
1 tin rhubarb
2 jars crushed pines
216 chocolate cream whirls

DAIRY PREMISES

Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies Act), 1944

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised) Regulations, 1949

Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949

The District Council is responsible for the granting of dealers' and supplementary licences for heat-treated milk and those in respect of raw designated milk.

The County Council as a Food and Drugs Authority is responsible for the licensing of plant and premises for the heat treatment of milk, i.e. pasteurisers' and sterilisers' licences.

The Regulations do not disturb the responsibility of local authorities regarding the infection of milk with tuberculosis.

Particulars concerning the Regulations are as follows:

No. of milk distributors (raw and designated milks)	
registered	55
No. of licences (designated milks) granted	32

MILK SAMPLING

The undermentioned is a summary of work done during the year :

Tubercle Bacillus—Biological Test

Samples Submitted	No. Negative	No. Positive
55	47	6

Methylene Blue

Samples Submitted	No. Satisfactory	No. Unsatisfactory
55	50	5

With reference to the discrepancy of two in the biological figures this was due to the guinea pigs dying during the second week of test period.

Copies of all reports concerning milk sampling are forwarded to the Chief Milk Production Officer, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Government Buildings, Cop Lane, Penwortham, Preston.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938

Ice-Cream Heat Treatment Regulations, 1947

No. of premises registered (retailers only)	18
No. of premises registered as manufacturers (cold mix only)	1

ICE CREAM SAMPLING

No. of Samples submitted	No. in Grade 1	No. in Grade 2	No. in Grade 3	No. in Grade 4
24	19	—	1	2
(2 samples void)				

On the 27th October, 1949, the Minister of Food issued Model Bye-Laws Series 1 (in lieu of Model Bye-Laws Series XXIX issued 1939); these became operative in this District on the 23rd April, 1950.

In order to obtain uniformity in the administration of the bye-laws in the area, joint meetings of local Sanitary Inspectors from neighbouring authorities are held at frequent intervals to prepare codes of practice and to discuss contentious matters which arise from time to time.

WATER SUPPLIES

All but 2 houses in the Rural District are supplied from public mains, the majority from the mains of Ashton-under-Lyne, Dukinfield, Stalybridge and District Waterworks, whilst a small number are fed from the Oldham Corporation

Waterworks main. The water from both these sources is satisfactory in quality but not in quantity; this applies to the Parishes of Alt and Woodhouses only and is due to aged mains and erosion. No bacteriological or chemical examinations have been made by the Rural District during the year, such examinations being made by the undertakers, reports of which are received monthly. There has been no evidence of plumbo-solvent action.

The number of houses supplied from standpipes is nil.

The population supplied direct from public mains is estimated at 9,185.

HOUSING AND OVERCROWDING

The total number of dwelling houses in the District at the end of the year was 2,914, mostly of the low-rented type and containing 2 bedrooms.

64 new houses have been erected during the year, a full report of which can be found in the Surveyor's section of the report.

20 applicants from the housing register have been re-housed, the majority of the occupants having been in lodgings.

During the year 35 new applications for tenancy of your Council houses were received from people living in lodgings, and 18 applications from people who are tenants. The total number of applicants under these two categories on the register at the end of the year was 226, the grand total of applicants in all categories on the housing register at the year-end was 307 and 78 of the 307 had no residential or priority qualifications.

All eligible applications from lodgers with 1 or more children and tenants with 3 or more children who applied for a Council house prior to 1950 have been housed. For 1950 and 1951 there are outstanding applications from 9 lodgers with 1 or more children and 4 tenants with 3 or more children.

SHOPS AND OFFICES

Visits have been made to shops in the District, and in the main these have been found to be satisfactory; no action was necessary with regard to offices.

RODENT CONTROL

Since February, 1944, the Council has been responsible for the work under the Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919; the powers were delegated by the Lancashire County Council. These powers were repealed under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, and on the 31st March, 1950, the District Council became responsible for the administration of more comprehensive duties under the Pests Act.

The Council has one trained Rodent Operative on a part-time basis and the work is supervised by the Sanitary Inspector.

No reservoir infestations of rodents were found, but a few cases of minor infestations have been dealt with. All infestations found on domestic premises have been dealt with, free of cost. Infestations found in industrial and commercial premises were dealt with in co-operation with the persons responsible.

Your Sewage Works at Bardsley, Waterloo and Littlemoss, also the refuse tip at Waterloo, have received routine attention, and it has been possible to keep the rodent population under control.

With reference to rodent infestations found on the farms, etc., the Lancashire Agricultural Committee, Pests Infestation Department, rendered ready assistance and with their co-operation in respect of all cases notified to this Authority the farmers were, on the whole, well satisfied with the results.

The undermentioned particulars have been forwarded to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in accordance with Form PDR/R3.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS, 1949

TYPE OF PROPERTY

	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agricultural	All other (including Business Premises)	TOTAL
I. Total number of properties in Local Authority's District	6	2,914	58	173	3,161
... ... ...	...	...	...	...	2
II. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1952 as a result (a) of notification or (b) otherwise	(a) —	2	—	—	634
...	(b) 11	529	36	58	—
III. Number of properties (under II) found to be infested by rats	Major —	—	—	—	—
...	Minor 3	27	10	2	42
IV. Number of properties (under II) found to be seriously infested by mice	... ... ...	—	—	—	—
V. Number of infested properties (Under III and IV) treated by the Local Authority	... ... ...	3	27	—	30
VI. Number of notices served under Section 4 :—		—	—	—	—
(1) Treatment ...	...	—	—	—	—
(2) Structural Works (i.e., proofing) ...	...	—	—	—	—
VII. Number of cases in which default action was taken by Local Authority following issue of notice under Section 4	... ... ...	...	...	...	—
VIII. Legal proceedings ... ... ...	...	—	—	—	—
IX. Number of "block" control schemes carried out	1	—	—	—	—

OTHER VERMIN

No. of premises inspected for vermin	23
No. of premises disinfested	11

The Council's sewage works and tips have been reasonably free from crickets and other pests and it has not been necessary to spray the tips with insecticide.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

During the year 17 half-hourly observations of smoke emissions were taken from agricultural and industrial undertakings within the Rural District.

The Council is now a member of the Manchester and District Regional Smoke Abatement Committee; and arrangements have been made for the installation of a lead peroxide apparatus on the sewage works site, in the Parish of Waterloo.



